

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN REPLY TO BOUTEFLIKA/WALDHEIM APPEAL

REF: USUN 5607

RADIO ETHIOPIA BROADCAST (AS HEARD) FOLLOWING REPLY IN ENGLISH FROM BG TEFERI BENTI, EMAC CHAIRMAN, TO UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM'S APPEAL (CF. REFTEL).

QUOTE: HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. WALDHEIM, SECRETARY GENERAL OF UN - NEW YORK. PMAC ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S TELEGRAM OF 27 NOVEMBER 1974, CONVEYING APPEAL OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE PMAC AT THE OUTSET WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY AND CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, H.E. MR. ABDEL-AZIZ BOUTEFLIKA AND THROUGH BOTH OF YOU, THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN, THAT WITH THE RECENT CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ETHIOPIA THROUGH THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, ETHIOPIA IS TODAY IN BETTER POSITION TO PLAY A MORE MEANINGFUL ROLE IN THE UN IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE UN CHARTER. THE PMAC HAS REPEATEDLY DECLARED ITS DECISION TO (SIC) AN ABIDING FAITH IN THE NOBLE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE UN CHARTER. THE PMAC IS FULLY DETERMINED TO FULFILL ALL ITS COMMITMENTS TO THE UN, IN PARTICULAR IN THE FIELDS OF THE DECOLONIZATION AND THE MAINTENANCE OF WORLD PEACE. THE PMAC'S FUNDAMENTAL PHILOSOPHY OF "ETHIOPIA TIKDEM" PRIMARILY IS GEARED TO ENSURE THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, NOT ONLY IN ETHIOPIA BUT

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THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PMAC IS TO ERADICATE

PAST SOCIO-ECONOMIC INJUSTICES AND TO BUILD A NEW ETHIOPIA WHERE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS WILL BE GUARANTEED, EQUAL SOCIAL-ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE ASSURED, AND JUSTICE BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW WILL PREVAIL. JUDGING FROM THAT THE PMAC HAS INHERITED, THE PAST HAS BEEN AN ERA OF OPPRESSION WHERE MASS OF THE PEOPLE WERE CONDEMNED TO LIVE AS SLAVES WITHOUT ANY FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS WHATSOEVER. THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE WERE SYSTEMATICALLY STIFLED, FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY WAS DENIED AND JUSTICE WAS DISPENSED BY THE REGIME TO SUIT ITS OWN WHIMS AND FANCIES. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DIED OF HUNGER, MAL-NUTRITION AND DISEASE BECAUSE OF THE CALLOUS AND MORE OFTEN WANTON POLICIES OF THE PREVIOUS REGIME WHICH WAS PRE-OCCUPIED WITH EFFORTS TO BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL IMAGE STRIVING (SIC) AT HOME ON THE IGNORANCE OF THE MASSES OF THE PEOPLE. THE NUMBER OF THE POLITICAL FIGURES ELIMINATED WITHOUT FAIR TRIAL BY THE PAST REGIME IS YET TO BE MADE KNOWN. (NAMES OF EXPERIENCED MEN OF CONSCIENCE WHO HAD BEEN CONDEMNED TO LANGUISH IN DARK CELLS FOR DECADES HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE MASS MEDIA. THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA HAVE RIGHTLY ACCUSED THE PREVIOUS REGIME OF PRACTICING A POLICY OF GENOCIDE. THE HARDEST STRICKEN STORIES OF SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES DYING OF FAMINE WERE HIDDEN BY THE PAST CORRUPT REGIME BUT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REVEALED THEIR PATHETIC STORIES AND CAME TO THE AID OF A GRATEFUL ETHIOPIAN NATION. SINCE ALL THESE FACTS ARE KNOWN TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN, THE PMAC WISHES TO CONFINE ITSELF TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S APPEAL AS CONVEYED BY YOU. THE PMAC WISHES TO REITERATE THAT THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN ETHIOPIA PURELY FALL WITHIN CHAPTER ONE, ARTICLE TWO OF THE UN CHARTER. HOWEVER, WITH DUE RESPECT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE PMAC WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S APPEAL HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT SPECULATIVE, AS FAR AS FUTURE ACTIONS OF THE PMAC ARE CONCERNED BASED, AS THE APPEAL IS ON ERRONEOUS ASSUMPTIONS AND FALSE AND MALICIOUS NEWS-PAPER REPORTS. THE PMAC HAS ALREADY MADE IT KNOWN THAT THERE WOULD BE FAIR TRIALS FOR THE PRISONERS IN CUSTODY, UNDER THE LAWS EXISTING IN THE COUNTRY. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE PMAC WISHES TO ASSURE THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THERE IS NO REASON WHATSOEVER FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO BE CONCERNED OVER THE FATE OF THE PRISONERS WHO ARE REGULARLY FED AND CLOTHED BY THEIR FAMILIES WITH WHOM THEY MAINTAIN DAILY CONTACTS. THIS IN ITSELF IS A PRIVILEGE WHICH PRISONERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES RARELY ENJOY. THE PRISONERS ARE THUS

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RECEIVING MOST HUMANE TREATMENT. UNQUOTE.
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